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Sixty-fifth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 20 (c)
Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Yemen:* draft resolution

International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/200 of 18 December 1997, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/220 of 22 December 1999, 55/197 of 20 December 2000, 56/194 of 21 December 2001, 57/255 of 20 December 2002, 59/232 of 22 December 2004, 61/199 of 20 December 2006 and 63/215 of 19 December 2008 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46 of 28 July 1999, 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2000/33 of 28 July 2000,

Noting that the El Niño phenomenon has a recurring character and that it can lead to extensive natural hazards with the potential to seriously affect humankind,

Reaffirming the importance of developing strategies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels that aim to prevent, mitigate and repair the damage caused by natural disasters that result from the El Niño phenomenon,

Noting that technological developments and international cooperation have enhanced the capabilities for the prediction of the El Niño phenomenon and thereby the potential for the preventative actions that may be taken to reduce its negative impacts,

Acknowledging that the International Research Centre on El Niño has developed into a reference centre on climate services and climate-related disaster-risk reduction,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

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Taking into account the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[1] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[2] in particular paragraph 37 (i) thereof,

Reaffirming the Hyogo Declaration[3] and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[4]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,[5] in particular annex III of the report, entitled "International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon", and calls upon the international community to make further efforts to assist countries affected by this phenomenon;

2. *Recognizes* the efforts made by the Government of Ecuador, the World Meteorological Organization and the inter-agency secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction that led to the establishment of the International Research Centre on El Niño at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and encourages them to continue to support the advancement of the Centre;

3. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken so far to strengthen the International Research Centre on El Niño, through collaboration with international monitoring centres, including the national oceanographic institutions, and efforts to enhance regional and international recognition and support for the Centre and to develop tools for decision makers and Government authorities for reducing the impact of the El Niño phenomenon;

4. *Notes* the contribution that the International Research Centre on El Niño has made in the area of climate research, supporting applied studies with data collection and contributing to the periodic El Niño/La Niña Updates coordinated by the World Meteorological Organization;

5. *Also notes* among the innovations of the International Research Centre on El Niño a new climate database for El Niño/Southern Oscillation-sensitive countries located on the western coast of South America, and encourages the sharing of best practices with climate centres located in other El Niño-affected regions;

6. *Recognizes* the technical and scientific support of the World Meteorological Organization to producing regionally coordinated monthly and seasonal forecasts, particularly its establishment of a consensus mechanism for the development of updates on El Niño/La Niña conditions, which receives contributions from several climate centres, including the International Research Centre on El Niño;

7. *Encourages* in this regard the World Meteorological Organization to continue to strengthen the collaboration and the exchange of data and information with relevant institutions;

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[1] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[3] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 1.

[4] Ibid., resolution 2.

[5] A/65/388.

8. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and the relevant United Nations organs, funds and programmes, in particular those taking part in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and the international community to adopt, as appropriate, the necessary measures to further strengthen the International Research Centre on El Niño, and invites the international community to provide scientific, technical and financial assistance and cooperation for this purpose, as well as to strengthen, as appropriate, other centres devoted to the study of the El Niño phenomenon;

9. *Underscores* the importance of maintaining the El Niño/Southern Oscillation observation system, continuing research into extreme weather events, improving forecasting skills and developing appropriate policies for reducing the impact of the El Niño phenomenon and other extreme weather events, and emphasizes the need to further develop and strengthen these institutional capacities in all countries, in particular developing countries;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include a section on the implementation of the present resolution in his report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.